

the ALMAGEST

Louisiana State University in Shreveport

NOEL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

FEB 01 2007

LSU SHREVEPORT

Thursday
February 1, 2007

Season swings into action Friday

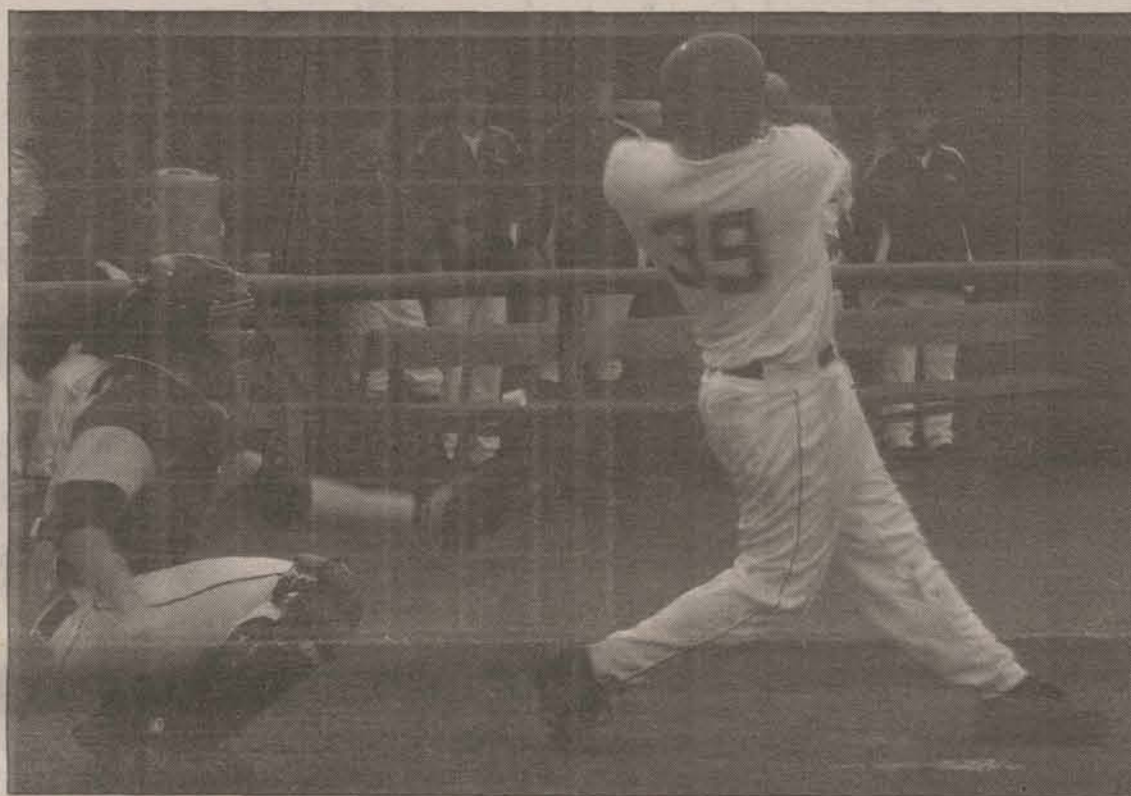
by Chrissy Chiri

The first pitch is only 60 feet and one day away as the LSUS Pilots baseball team gears up for its first game of the season.

The team had a rigorous off-season by working out and practicing throughout a majority of the fall semester. They are itching to get onto the field to play against someone other than each other. Their first series of the year will be against Lubbock Christian College in Lubbock, Texas. Game one of the three-game-series will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday.

The Pilots are ranked No. 13 in the preseason polls by the NAIA. Last year they went 41-23 on the year and won the Gulf Coast Atlantic Conference tournament. They made it to the NAIA Region XIII championship game but lost and did not advance to the NAIA World Series. The last time the Pilots made a World Series appearance was in 2003 when they finished in third place.

"We can live up to being No. 13 in the nation. I'd be surprised if we don't win conference," Head Coach Rocke Musgraves said. He added that he isn't surprised



CHRISSE CHIRI

Junior catcher Brent Lavalley fouls off a pitch in last weekend's scrimmage. Lavalley's coach is looking for him to be a leader, especially defensively behind the plate.

by the pre-season ranking because they have built a good reputation of being a good team every year.

The coach recognizes the talent this year's squad has, and a majority of that is coming from his 12 seniors. In terms of pitching, he said he is especially looking to seniors Kevin Jewell and Matt Clayman to do big things. Offensively, he said he is counting on seniors Chris

Frye, Colin Moro, Brandon Magierowski, Bryan Cooksey, Steffan Primeaux and David McGhee.

"We're deeper than we've ever been on the mound," Musgraves said.

Jewell and Clayman will be the number one and two starters for all conference weekend series, and junior Puerto Rican native Juan Leon will be the third starter. Musgraves added there are

four players competing for the starting spots during the week — Daniel Welch, Mark Dainty, Victor Hernandez and Corey Keener. Out of those four, Welch and Keener are seniors as well.

"We are going to have to be more creative to score runs this year. Right now we are not efficient on offense," Musgraves said.

This year's team will be without the strong bats of

graduated players center-fielder Dusty Maddox and second baseman Dustin Bissonnette. However, this year's outfield consists of seniors Frye, Moro and McGhee, who can all hit for power. Also, junior catcher Brent Lavalley is better than ever.

"He (Lavalley) gets better every day," Musgraves commented.

"We have a lot of guys who are leaders on the team this year. We have some vocal leaders and then we have some that lead by example, so I am just going to try and do my part," Lavalley said.

Freshman second baseman Chase Jennings won the starting job at the keystone sack. He is really balanced, according to Musgraves. He also added that freshman Ricky Sanders could see some big at-bats.

LSUS's opponent tomorrow will be the pre-season ranked, No. 6 team in the NAIA. Musgraves will start Jewell and Clayman in the two Friday games. Leon will start on Saturday.

For game two, he said he will probably start Dainty and then game three will be a day of "staff," in which several pitchers take the mound.

FEATURES • 5



Kristen King

LSUS student back from Iraq

SPORTS • 6



Sports

Lady Pilots fight for playoff spot

the **Almagest**

Volume 50, Issue 2

**Mike Schwalke**
Editor-in-Chief**Chrissy Chiri**
Managing Editor**Tyler Spears**
Business Manager**Chris Gray**
Columnist**Jeremiah Raab**
Staff Writer**Rodrigo Mondragon**
Photographer

"Almagest" is an Arabic word meaning "great" or "majestic." It is also the title of a book written by the ancient astronomer Ptolemy who is pictured on the front page of our paper.

Bronson Hall, Room 344
Louisiana State University in Shreveport
One University Place
Shreveport, LA 71115
phone/fax: (318) 797-5328
e-mail: almagest@lsus.edu
Suzanne Bright, faculty adviser

Editorial Policy

The information presented in this publication by no means reflects the opinions of the administration or staff of LSUS. *The Almagest* seeks to provide information for the LSUS campus and community; to involve students, faculty and staff; and to provide a public forum for ideas as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Comments and complaints are welcome and should be addressed to Mike Schwalke, Editor-in-Chief. They must be accompanied by your full name and e-mail address.

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. Letters should be e-mailed or submitted to the Almagest office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Please type the letter and include your classification and major. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

EDITORIAL CARTOON**Escalation of the War**

by Mike Pizzolato

**In This Issue**

Vol. 50, Issue 2

Campus News	p. 3
Features	p. 4
Features	p. 5
Sports	p. 6
Entertainment	p. 7
Fun & Games	p. 8
Sports Schedule	p. 8

CAMPUS NEWS

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION UPDATE

- SGA elections will be held March 25-31. Applications for candidates will be available Feb. 14 in the UC.
- Dance Dance Revolution, Xbox and Playstation 2 are now available in the UC game room.
- Senator Spotlight, a monthly award for recognition among members of the SGA will be implemented starting this semester. Joseph Hayes, senator-at-large, will be the first member recognized.

Frederick Douglass appears at LSUS to inaugurate Black History Month

by Jeremiah Raab

The great-great grandson of an American legend will make a special appearance at LSUS tomorrow.

Frederick Douglass IV, great-great grandson of Frederick Douglass, the renowned abolitionist, is scheduled to perform a dramatization of several key moments in his great-great grandfather's life at 10 a.m. in the UC Theatre. The performance will be preceded by a news conference at 9:30 a.m., and after the performance, Douglass will be available for a short time to answer questions and talk to students.

The production will cover Douglass' journey from slave to free man, his positions as abolitionist, orator, author and editor of the North Star newspaper. Douglass' international fame as a result of his being an ambassador to Haiti and Santo Domingo, as well as numerous speaking engagements throughout Europe, will also be highlighted.

The event is being co-sponsored by the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, City of Shreveport, LSUS and Centenary College.

Although things seem to be set, there has been one snag. Earlier this week, Dr. Gloria Raines, vice chancellor of student affairs, made note of the fact that LSUS will be having classes at the same time as the performance, but she is "hoping faculty will allow students to attend."

Douglass and his wife B.J. are co-founders of The Frederick Douglass Organi-

zation, which exists for the purpose of keeping the legacy of Frederick Douglass alive through lectures and reenactments of Douglass' life.

Douglass could not be reached for comment, but according to his Web site, the FDO promotes several causes that Frederick Douglass found worthy, such as awarding scholarships and conducting workshops that "encourage participants from different racial, religious, gender and age groups to engage in dialogues that promote greater understanding of how we must change to become more sensitive and caring Americans."

Douglass and his wife have received numerous accolades. They were both named honorary chairpersons for Read Across America in 2003, and Douglass was recently appointed to the James Madison Book Award Advisory Council by Lynne Cheney, wife of Vice President Dick Cheney.

Born into slavery in 1818, Frederick Douglass is considered one of the foremost orators in American history. After escaping slavery himself, he spent the rest of his life fighting for the freedom of those who were still in bonds.

The FDO Web site claims that the "foremost message" of the organization is that if a man like Frederick Douglass could be born into slavery and still become a prominent international figure, then today's young people in America, with free public education, library access, and other resources, "have no excuse not to succeed."

Campus Briefs

Perks of LSUS student IDs

Tuition and book fees may have you digging pretty deep in your wallet, and now, LSUS will save you considerable cash. Your LSUS student ID can get you student discounts in the hottest spots in town.

Unfortunately, many students are unaware of the perks in their pockets since little advertising is done to make students aware. Luckily, SGA is working with the companies to get student attention.

Assistant Director of Student Activities Kim Thornton said, "We're working on getting companies to get stickers to place in windows to let students know."

One discount may be harder to get than others. IHOP, on Youree Drive, has a strict guideline in place asking for a 2007 ID, but the only students who have 2007 IDs are either transfers or incoming freshman. The SGA is talking with IHOP to accommodate more students.

SGA Secretary Ebonee Rhodes said to "expect more additions to the list this semester."

A full list of businesses offering student discounts can be found at www.lsus.edu/uc/discounts.asp.

By Brittany Harness

Student Activities holding events this week

Several events are being held this week for students by the Student Activities Board. They are sponsoring these events as a way to get students more involved on campus.

An overtime basketball party will be held in the UC tonight after the men's basketball game, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Free food and music will be provided.

The racquetball tournament begins on Feb. 5. Students can sign up in the UC in the Student Activities office.

An adult CPR and defibrillator training session will be held Feb. 6 from 1 to 5 p.m. in the UC Pilot's Room. Participants who take the class will become certified in both areas.

Also, a yoga class is being held Feb. 6 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the HPE dance studio.

By Chrissy Chiri

Come eat at

"Strawn's Eat Shop Too:

World's Famous Pies"

1643 East 70th (@ Youree)

318-798-7117

www.strawntoo.com

Celeste Gauthier, owner

University hires new Web master

by Jessica Clinton

You might have noticed some changes recently to LSUS's computer systems. The switch over from Blackboard to Moodle and the changing and integration of the new e-mail system along with Compass are a few of the more noticeable adjustments that have come to be in the past year.

The university has also added one more change. LSUS has hired a new Web master in Computing Services. The position had been open for a while before Tom Barnes contacted Computing Services.

Director of Computing Services Shelby Keith said Barnes "brings many years of experience to the position, working in both secondary and higher education." More specifically, Barnes has worked for the Union Parish School District and the Region 8 Assistive Technology Center, which is located in the northeastern part of the state and helps teachers learn technology for students with disabilities. With his many years of experience in school systems, Barnes knew he was perfect for the job here at LSUS.

"Mainly (the university's Web site) is my responsibility," Barnes said. "I will also be working a little with Moodle as well."

With his background of over 10 years of Web design and work with different school systems and programs such as Moodle, Barnes felt this opportunity "fit him to a tee." He also said that he has done many freelance design and Web master jobs throughout his career.



LSU IN SHREVEPORT 24th Annual Mini- "Washington Semester"

MAY 14-30, 2007

- ▶ Least expensive Washington Semester in the nation
- ▶ Six hours of academic credit in political science or American Studies, including internships
- ▶ Open to all students, regardless of major, year in school, or school of normal attendance
- ▶ No out-of-state tuition; stay in hotel in downtown DC

There are two large fixed costs: triple occupancy hotel room (approximately \$704), and tuition fees (\$717). Transportation to and from DC as well as meals, are up to participants to arrange as well as some minor expenses.

DEADLINES:

\$400 deposit due DECEMBER 1, 2006. This guarantees a slot on the "Washington Semester" and applies to your hotel/tuition fee. It is non-refundable. Balance for hotel/tuition is due **MARCH 16, 2007**

For further information:

Dr. William D. Pederson, Resident Director
Washington Semester Program
Louisiana State University in Shreveport
One University Place, 321 BH
Shreveport, LA 71115-2301
(318) 797-5138 fax: (318) 795-4203
email wpederson@lsus.edu or visit website www.lsus.edu/lincoln/washington.asp

Student now at LSUS after working in Iraq

by Angel Arnold

Kristen King, a junior majoring in mass communications, may seem like an ordinary college student. But how many college students spend a year in Iraq as reporters for the Army Reserve? King did.

King was attending LSU in Baton Rouge and serving as a news director for the campus news station when she decided that she "wanted something that set (her) apart" from other mass communications students. She met with a recruiter for the Army Reserve and, after praying and talking with friends and family, joined the Army Reserve in October 2003. She spent nine weeks in boot camp and another 12 in journalism school in Maryland. She was deployed in June 2005, and by August she was in Kuwait.

Her troop consisted of 26 people, 11 of whom were

"I didn't want to be treated like a girl. I wanted them to treat me like another soldier."

Kristen King
LSUS Army Reserve student

women. They produced a 10-minute daily newscast that aired on the Pentagon station.

They would interview anyone from Army brass to Iraqi civilians. The most dangerous assignments were given to men unless one of the women volunteered.

"I felt like I had to prove myself to them," King said. "I didn't want to be treated like a girl. I wanted them to treat me like another soldier."

After eight months of reporting, King was assigned a

radio show. Her show, which was on the country station because of her accent, aired four hours a day, six days a week. During the run of her radio show, King got a lot of positive feedback from the soldiers stationed all over Iraq.

"That was the biggest reward," she said.

On her 22nd birthday, King boarded the bus to go home. She called it "the best feeling ever."

When she got home, King decided to stay in Shreveport and attend LSUS instead of resuming her studies in Baton Rouge.

Since she has gotten home, she has been certified in scuba diving and plans to be certified in skydiving soon. She said that because of her experiences in Iraq she does not "take anything for granted."

"What I got out of there I could have never gotten out of a classroom," she said.



Kristen King served as a journalist in Iraq for the Army Reserve. She is now a student at LSUS and is sharing her experiences. Pictured above is King with some Iraqi children and below is King in the studio in Iraq; King wanted to do something to set her apart from other journalism students.

COURTESY PHOTOS



History class writes jailed Edwards; gets response in letter

by Devin White

Students in last semester's Louisiana history class got a surprise in December when former four-term governor Edwin Edwards responded to a letter written by the class. Cheryl White, instructor of history, wrote the letter on behalf of her students. The idea came about after a lengthy class discussion about contemporary figures.

Edwards, who served more terms than any other Louisiana governor, was convicted in 2001 on charges of racketeering, extortion

and fraud and is currently serving a 10-year prison sentence in the Federal Detention Center in Oakdale, La.

"I suggested, sort of tongue and cheek, that Gov. Edwards didn't have much else to do at this time," said White. "So, I had the students compile some questions they might have for him so we could formulate a letter."

The letter asked Edwards how he wanted to be remembered and what accomplishments he was most proud of.

"I would like to be remembered as one who never

"I would like to be remembered as one who never forgot about his roots, humble beginning and the people who most need the attention of government."

Edwin Edwards
Former Louisiana governor

forgot his roots," Edwards wrote. "I spoke for the voice-

less, acted for the powerless, cared for the sick and troubled and tried to emphasize our common concerns and minimize our differences."

The letter, written from a prison typewriter, discussed some positive highlights of his career including a visit he made to LSUS.

Approaching his 80th birthday, Edwards reflected on a life of controversy with confidence that he will be remembered for the good and not the bad.

"As I look back over my life I know I made a difference, and many people are

better off today because I was here," he wrote. "My critics cannot change that."

On the last day of class, each student received a copy of the signed letter.

"I think that they were excited to have that little piece of history," said White. "I think they were able to grasp the significance of what they had because Edwin Edwards is an individual who was not just a Louisiana politician, but he was a national figure."

That "little piece of history" will be donated to the LSUS archives for future students to read and enjoy.

SPORTS

LSUS Pilots still holding on to fourth place in GCAC

by Chrissy Chiri

After a weekend of Gulf Coast Athletic Conference play, the LSUS Pilots are still holding onto fourth place after splitting their two-game road trip series in New Orleans.

The Pilots played the Loyola Wolfpack Thursday and coasted to a 73-52 win. Loyola is still winless in conference with a 0-9 record. They are currently on an 11-game losing streak.

LSUS went on to face the then first-place Southern University of New Orleans Knights and took a tough 77-64 on Saturday.

SUNO (7-3) is now in second place after losing to the University of Mobile Rams

(6-2), who took hold of first place. Tougaloo College (6-3) is in third place, and LSUS (5-4) follows. There are 10 teams in the GCAC, and the top eight advance at the end of the season to the GCAC Tournament. The winner of that advances to the national tournament.

Against SUNO, the Pilots had the lead going into half-time by a score of 31-28. However, the Knights offense was on fire in the second half, and they shot a blistering 86 percent from the 3-point line. Five of SUNO's players scored in double digits.

The Pilots were once again without regular senior point guard Freddy Hughes

who is still out with an ankle injury. He averages 15.6 points and 6.4 assists per game.

Junior post Jamon Morris stepped up on the offensive end, however, and scored 19 points as well as adding 10 rebounds. Senior forward Kyle Byrd scored 14 points, and senior forward Blake Whittle poured in 14 points as well.

LSUS turned the ball over an uncharacteristic 18 times against the Knights.

There are 10 games left in conference play, and the Pilots will look to get back on a winning streak tonight against the Dillard University Blue Devils at 7:30 p.m. at the Dock.



RODRIGO MONDRAGON

LSUS senior guard Travis Cash goes up for a layup. His team won one of their two games on the road last weekend.

Road woes continue to dog Lady Pilots squad

by Chrissy Chiri

After traveling to New Orleans last weekend for two Gulf Coast Athletic Conference games, the Lady Pilots lost two tough contests.

The first loss came against Loyola Lady Wolfpack by a score of 77-61. The Lady Wolfpack (7-2) are in second place in the GCAC. They trail Xavier University of Louisiana (7-1) by half a game.

The Lady Pilots second loss on the road came in overtime against the Southern University of New Orleans Lady Knights, 64-61. This is the second overtime loss LSUS has suffered in their last three games. SUNO



RODRIGO MONDRAGON

Kacie Cryer, left, looks to make a pass to Janai Sells, No. 44. The Lady Pilots are 3-6 in conference play.

(7-3) is in fourth place in the GCAC, and the Lady Pilots (3-6) are tied for seventh place.

The GCAC consists of 10

teams, and the top eight squads advance to the conference tournament. The winner of that goes on to the national tournament. Gulf

Coast Athletic Conference play is half over, and the LSUS Lady Pilots are needing to hang on to one of the top eight spots to ensure their place in the post season.

Tonight they play the Dillard University Lady Blue Devils and will try to get back on a winning track at the Dock. They beat Dillard at their first meeting of the season 69-51 in New Orleans. Tip-off is scheduled for 5:30 p.m.

Against SUNO, the Lady Pilots were down 27-25 at one point in the first half but were able to cut the Lady Knight's lead to only six points at half-time, 29-23. LSUS tied things up in the

second half and were able to hang with SUNO.

However, they were never able to take the lead in the second half.

Regulation time ended with the scored tied 54-54. The Lady Pilots took a 58-56 lead in overtime, but couldn't keep their offense going as they ended up with the tough loss on the road.

In that match-up, junior guard Edie Leondars managed a double-double with 16 points and 14 rebounds. Junior forward Kacie Cryer ended the game with 16 points and five rebounds and senior guard Jessica Kelly finished with 12 points, eight boards and three steals.

ENTERTAINMENT

'Aces' hot card at box office with smoking cast

by Chris Gray

In "Smokin' Aces" seven hit men are contracted to take out Buddy "Aces" Israel. Israel is a key witness in an FBI case against long-time Mafia lord Primo Sparazza. This film not only has good acting, story and action, it has a very intricate plot that kept me on edge throughout the film.

With an all-star cast that included Ryan Reynolds ("Blade: Trinity," "Amityville Horror"), Jeremy Pivens ("Cars"), Ray Liotta ("No Escape," "Goodfellas,"

"Narc"), and Alicia Keys, I was looking forward to a good film. The acting in this film was decent, but Ryan Reynolds and Jeremy Pivens stole the show. Liotta gave the same performance he always does; there was nothing special in his delivery this time around.

Liotta always falls just short of the good actor mark. Alicia Keys gave it her all, I'm sure, but failed to convey anything other than sexiness in her performance.

Reynolds and Pivens on the other hand gave Oscar-

caliber performances. Reynolds showed that he could act and perform with the best of the Hollywood A-list. He showed every emotion in the book in this film, and I believed every one of them. He is a young actor whose career is about to take off.

Pivens gave the best performance of his acting career. Even though he is known mostly for comedy and voice acting in animated films, his portrayal of a strung-out, cocaine-addicted snitch was amazing. One

minute I was laughing at his comedic flare, and the next I was feeling sorry for him as I watched him sob after hitting a rail of coke. It was astounding to watch both of these men on the screen.

The plot of the film turned out to be more than your average shoot-em-up flick. It had a depth to it that you rarely see in action films today. It had a major twist towards the end and had the emotion and power of a good drama.

The whole film had a weight and depth behind it

that kept me entertained yet attached to the characters.

Director Joe Carnahan ("Narc") showed his ability in the director's chair. His ability to get the actors to show emotions through dialog was superb. Carnahan also used cinematography to capture emotions in a scene with his dynamic camera angles and scene composition.

If you can get past poor acting by most of the supporting cast, you will find that "Smokin' Aces" is a good film with a good plot and good direction.

India Studies presents night of carnatic classical music

by Christine Bradley

An Indian classical music concert featuring the artist Rajarajeshwary Bhat will be held Saturday at 5 p.m. in the UC Theater. A lecture-demonstration explaining this unique form music will be given before the performance.

The type of Indian classical music being performed is known as carnatic music. Since improvisation is a major factor of carnatic music, a basic understanding of the music is necessary to truly appreciate it.

"I am excited about the lecture demonstration so people unfamiliar with the music can get an understanding of it," said Sanjay Menon, assistant professor of management and marketing and director of the

India Studies program.

Carnatic music is an ancient tradition of south India. The music dates back centuries, around the time of the Renaissance in Europe. Surprisingly, the music has not changed dramatically since its creation.

"India has been invaded by many cultures," Ajay Tummula said. He is a local physician and an avid listener of carnatic music.

"There is a lot of Persian influence in the northern classical music. The South stayed true to carnatic music," Tummula said.

The concerts for carnatic music are known for being intimate. "There is no elaborate ensemble," Tummula said. "The group is made of one or two, maybe six people."

The audiences are also generally small, and no microphones are used.

Interpretation and improvisation are what make carnatic music so special. The performing ensemble's personal interpretation of a composer's lyrics is the inspiration for improvisation. Lyrics are usually just four to five lines long, but performers can continue to improvise and play for up to 45 minutes.

"The sound itself is sometimes very odd to the listener," said Veena Tummula, carnatic music listener, "but when you listen to the whole piece it makes sense."

Vocalist Bhat works as an ambassador of Indian culture with her prominent concert performances and lectures.

Jesse Winchester

Country songwriter and Bossier City native Jesse Winchester returns to the stage Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the UC Theatre. Tickets are \$20 at the door.



Make her day

And your night.



www.kabloomofshreveport.com

KaBloom
The power of fresh flowers

318-797-9585

FUN & GAMES

Support Your Mass Communications Department

The mass communications department will be producing a bi-weekly news show, but they need your help. They want to know what you want to see and hear as well as needing a name/title for the news show. Send suggestions for a name and show ideas to the Almagest.

Bert Stroud, the Anthropologist



Sudoku Puzzle

		3		9		2		4
	1		6		4		3	
4		8	5				1	
2			7			4		3
	3	7		6			9	
9				3	5			1
	7			4	6	8		
	2		3			1		6
6		1			2		7	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

By: Mike Schwalke and Diego Tripodi

LSUS Sports Schedule

Thursday, Feb. 1

5:30 p.m.

Dillard at LSUS*
(women's basketball)

7:30 p.m.

Dillard at LSUS*
(men's basketball)

Friday, Feb. 2

6:30 p.m.

LSUS at Lubbock University
Lubbock, Texas
(baseball)

Saturday, Feb. 3

1 p.m.

LSUS at Lubbock University
Lubbock, Texas
(baseball double-header)

5 p.m.

LSUS at UM*
Mobile, Ala.
(women's basketball)

7 p.m.

LSUS at UM*
Mobile, Ala.
(men's basketball)

Monday, Feb. 5

5:30 p.m.

LSUS at Spring Hill College*
Mobile, Ala.
(women's basketball)

7:30 p.m.

LSUS at Spring Hill College*
Mobile, Ala.
(men's basketball)

Tuesday, Feb. 6

4 p.m.

Texas College at LSUS
(baseball double-header)

Thursday, Feb. 8

5:30 p.m.

LSUS at Belhaven College*
Jackson, Miss.
(women's basketball)

7:30 p.m.

LSUS at Belhaven College*
Jackson, Miss.
(men's basketball)

* asterisk denotes
conference game